

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 IO-03 ISO-00 AGR-03 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-10 INT-01 L-02 LAB-01

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-14

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-04 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

SWF-01 FEA-01 DRC-01 /073 W
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R 101831Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8680

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD SF GATT

SUBJ: GATT ARTICLE XXVIII NEGOTIATIONS-SOUTH AFRICA

1. SOUTH AFRICA MISSION HAS PRESENTED US NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW CONCESSION ON REFRIGERATOR COMPONENTS UNDER GATT ARTICLE XXVIII:5. ITEM IS EX-OUT OF 84.15.90 AND DESCRIPTION IS "EVAPORATORS AND CONDENSERS, EXCLUDING THOSE FOR ELECTRIC REFRIGERATING CABINETS AND OTHER ELECTRIC REFRIGERATING FURNITURE INCORPORATING OR DESIGNED TO BE FITTED EITHER INTERNALLY OR EXTERNALLY WITH REFRIGERATING UNITS, INCLUDING SHOW CASES, COUNTERS AND FROZEN STORAGE CONTAINERS."

2. CURRENT DUTY-FREE BINDING BELONGS TO U.S. AS INITIAL NEGOTIATOR. ANNUAL AVERAGE TOTAL IMPORTS FOR 1971-73 IS 279,040 RAND, OF WHICH U.S. SUPPLIED 152,847 RAND. S.A. MISSION (PIENAAR) SAYS THESE FIGURES BASED ON DETAILED STUDY OF TRADE MOVING UNDER
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ENTIRE ITEM 84.15.90; S.A. HAS CONCLUDED THAT ONLY FOUR PERCENT OF TOTAL TRADE INCLUDED IN 84.15.90

MOVES UNDER THE EX-OUT COMMODITY DESCRIPTION GIVEN ABOVE.

3. COMPENSATION OFFERED U.S. IS REDUCE 3 PERCENT M.F.N. DUTY TO FREE AND BIND ON 84.34.30, "BLOCKS, PLATES, CYLINDERSS, AND LITHOGRAPHIC STONES, PREPARED FOR PRINTING PURPOSES (EXCLUDING OFFSET DUPLICATING MASTERS)." AVERAGE ANNUAL TRADE FOR 1971-73 IS 497,275 RAND, OF WHICH U.S. SUPPLIED 186,776 RAND. COPIES OF S.A. DOCUMENTS BEING POUCHED COMMERCE (MONTGOMERY) AND EB/OT/TA (BARRACLOUGH).

4. PIENAAR SAID HIS AUTHORITES MOST ANXIOUS TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS AT EARLY DATE. MISSION OFFICER PROMISED RELATE THIS REQUEST FOR PROMPT RESPONSE BUT OFFERED OPINION THAT COMPENSATION OFFER PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON. COMPENSATION OFFER ONLY INVOLVES ELIMINATION OF 3PERCENT DUTY, WHILE IMPAIRMENT IS TO BE CONSIDERABLE (S.A. DOES NOT INTEND RE-BIND TARIFF ON ITEM TO BE WITHDRAWN, AND PEINAAR UNWILLING GIVE ANY INDICATION OF EVENTUAL LEVEL OF TARIFF). THUS, PROHIBITIVE TARIFF SEEMS LIKELY. WE ASKED THAT PEINAAR GO AHEAD AND RELATE TO PRETORIA OUR PRELIMINARY REACTION THAT COMPENSATION OFFERED WOULD PROVE INADEUATE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: ASSUMING WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCUR WITH OUR REACTION THAT S.A. INITIAL OFFER IS NOT SUFFICIENT, WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INDICATION OF ALTERNATE OR SUPPLEMENTAL U.S. REQUEST. DALE

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